

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Subcommittee on Policies and Procedures

December 1, 2016

Minutes

Present: Chris Riddle, Chair; Jacqueline Maidana, Co-chair; Michael Greenebaum, Clerk; Maurianne Adams, John Hornik, Hind Mari, Janet McGowan, Adrienne Terrizzi

Absent: Amber KaCey

Guests: John Fox, Nick Grabbe, Rich Morse

AGENDA

Review and Approve Minutes of November 3 and November 17 meetings
General Review of Town Meeting
Preparation for December 5 meeting with Charter Commission
Master List of Town Meeting improvement measures
Topics not reasonably anticipated by the chair
Public comment

Meeting called to order at 4:02 The Minutes of Nov. 3 and 17 were approved.

The first topic discussed was preparation for the meeting with the Charter Commission on Monday, December 5, 2016, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at the Police Station. After considerable discussion, the following format was agreed to:

Riddle will introduce the presentation by introducing the committee members present. He will note that the ideas and proposals we are talking about tonight are all under discussion but that the SPP has significant differences of opinion about many of them. We hope to have one or more proposals ready for Annual Town Meeting, but we are a standing committee and will be a continuing presence. Our proposals, when ready, go to TMCC for a decision whether or not to place them on the Warrant or take such other steps as appropriate. He will distribute to the Charter Commission the list of proposals we plan to mention at the meeting, as well as a copy of the introductory remarks made by Greenebaum at the opening session of Town Meeting.

That list of proposals, as revised, are attached to this draft of the minutes. The names of the SPP members who will give very brief presentations are listed next to the ideas they will present. There was a great deal of discussion about the ideas on this list. They will continue to be on the table after the Charter Commission presentation. Guest Rich Morse added one concern - that too much emphasis on precincts might diminish the consideration of the interests of the town as a whole.

We then considered the Master List of ideas and proposals. A number of ideas have been submitted by Town Meeting members electronically. In the future, if an SPP member receives an idea, Riddell should be notified so he can send an acknowledgement, and Adams should be notified to add it to the Master List. Riddle will create a list of agendas for the next four meetings, which will be publicized so that people can now which ideas are on the agenda for discussion

A general review of the Special Town Meeting generated an animated discussion focussed mostly on Article 2, the schools vote. There is almost as much diversity of opinion on the committee as in the town meeting. Adams mentioned that the intensity of those who contacted her to vote one way or another raised the question in their minds of how or if members should "represent" their "constituents. Should members listen to all opinions and then make up their own minds, or should members get a sense of prevailing opinion and be influenced by it?

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 8 at 4.

Michael Greenebaum, Clerk